

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 12684 120918Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DODE-00 NEA-10 CIAE-00 PM-05 INR-10
L-03 ACDA-12 NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 SP-02 ICA-11
TRSE-00 /082 W
-----103518 120951Z /16

R 111145Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4141
INFO AMEMBASSY VALLETTA
USMISSION USNATO
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES
USCINCEUR VAHINGEN

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 12684

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV MT
SUBJECT: MALTESE NEUTRALITY GUARANTEE

REF: A) STATE 171863, DTG 071956Z JUL 78;B) ROME 12166,
DTG 301546Z JUN 78

1. WE RAISED POSSIBILITY OF CHANGE IN NEUTRALITY GUARANTEE
LANGUAGE WITH MANNO JULY 10 COVERING POINTS IN REF A. MANNO
WAS TAKEN ABACK BY IDEA AND SAID THAT IN RESPONSE TO EARLIER
UK DEMARCHE (REF B) HE HAD BEEN ABOUT TO INFORM BRITISH THAT
IT IS TOO LATE TO CONTEMPLATE CHANGES IN PAINFULLY NEGOTIATED
TEXT. BASED ON OUR APPROACH HE WOULD DELAY RESPONDING TO
BRITISH AND WOULD ASK MFA LEGAL ADVISER TO REEXAMINE WHOLE
ISSUE.

2. MANNO AGREED THAT MINTOFF WOULD PROBABLY FAVOR SPECIFIC
EXCLUSION OF US AND USSR EVER EXCLUSION OF ALLIANCE MEMBERS.
HE ADDED THAT FRENCH OBJECTION TO NAMING OF SUPERPOWERS HAD
BEEN THAT IT WAS "NOT ELEGANT" TO SINGLE OUT TWO NATIONS
IN THAT WAY. PRINCIPAL ITALIAN OBJECTION HAD BEEN LEGAL:
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THAT CONCEPT OF NEUTRALITY DID NOT PERMIT SPECIFYING
SPECIAL STATUS FOR TWO COUNTRIES. ITALIANS BELIEVED,
FURTHERMORE, THAT PROHIBITING ACCESS TO MALTA BY ALL
WARSAW PACT COUNTRIES WAS WORTH THE PRICE OF NATO COUNTRIES
EXCLUSION, AND ITALIAN MILITARY HAD AGREED.
NEVERTHELESS DRAFT OF GUARANTEE IS STILL AD REFERENDUM
TO GOVERNMENTS AND AS OTHER TEXTUAL CHANGES MAY BE MADE,

IT IS NOT IMPOSSIBLE TO ALTER LANGUAGE ON THIS POINT.
MANNO PROMISED TO BE BACK IN TOUCH WITH US ON ISSUE AFTER
CONSULTATIONS WITH MFA COLLEAGUES.

3. AS ITALIAN RESPONSE TO OUR APPROACH IS LIKELY TO BE
BASED ON LEGAL GROUNDS SPECIFICALLY ON CONCEPT OF NEUTRALITY
IN INTERNATIONAL LAW WE WOULD WELCOME ANY DETAILED ARGU-
MENTATION WE MIGHT PRESENT TO MFA ON THIS POINT. GARDNER

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